Amendment in Response to Non-Final Office Action I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4).

Dated: March 24, 2009 Signature: /Christina M. Sperny/

(Christina M. Sperry, Reg. No. 47,106)

Docket No.: 101896-242 (DEP5294) (PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Mark C. Boomer et al.

Application No.: 10/709,246

Filed: April 23, 2004

For: SPINAL IMPLANT CONNECTORS

Confirmation No.: 3245

Art Unit: 3733

Examiner: M. C. Hoffman

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Madam:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This paper is in response to the Office Action dated December 26, 2008.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.